Getting sick of burgers?

Summer barbecue season is in full swing, but a global Meatless Monday campaign asks you to go veggie just one day a week. Give this salad with tofu a try, and you'll be hooked PAGE 15

VENUS OUSTED

FORMER WIMBLEDON CHAMP SUFFERS A FIRST-ROUND LOSS AT THE TOURNAMENT SHE ONCE RULED PAGE 21

VANCOUVER metro®

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

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One small step to home affordability

City task force.
Report makes key recommendations in an effort to make housing more accessible

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Vancouver's affordable-housing task force is recommending the creation of a housing authority and the development of more stacked townhouses and row homes in the city.

These are just some of the key recommendations in an interim report unveiled Monday that aims to make Vancouver's housing market more affordable.

Mayor Gregor Robertson said a city-run housing authority would oversee non-market housing stock and develop land for social and affordable housing.

He added it could take away some of the workload from the city's planning and development department and fast-track applications.

The report also recommends that Vancouver explore newer forms of housing such as stacked townhouses, laneway homes and row houses in "transition zones" located close to major arterials and transit hubs.

"When we look at this issue, we realize that over 70 per cent of the zoning of the city is for single-family-type housing," said deputy city manager David McLellan.

Other recommendations in the report include protecting existing social and affordable rental housing, incentivizing all new housing built at ground level to be "suite ready," and reducing red tape in the regulatory process.

The 18-member task force, which is co-chaired by Robertson and former B.C. Liberal cabinet minister Olga Ilich, focused on helping households earning between $21,500 and a combined $86,500 annually.

The report will be discussed in council Wednesday.

A final report will be reviewed in September.

Until then, the public is encouraged to weigh in on the report through consultations, an online survey and an ideas competition.

Follow Phylicia Torrevillas on Twitter @ptorrevillas

The co-chairs of a city affordable-housing task force, Olga Ilich and Mayor Gregor Robertson, unveil an interim report Monday recommending steps Vancouver can take to increase and protect affordable housing stock in the city. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Search to go on in mall collapse

Hours after a search was called off in Elliot Lake, Ont., due to safety concerns, officials said rescue efforts at a collapsed mall would resume PAGE 8

Landslides ruin 3 villages

Hundreds of people are feared dead in Uganda after massive landslides are induced by torrential rain PAGE 10

1 NEWS

On the web

Fickle Facebook

The folks at Facebook have done it again — annoying users by making changes without advising them. This time, all users' default email addresses have been changed or are about to be changed to an @facebook.com account, one most people never use. Go to metronews.ca to read the full story and find out how you can change it.

Mobile news

Got a tumour? There's an app for that. Smartphone technology is now entering the operating room, allowing ovarian-cancer surgeons to use an application to store and track tumour information. Scan the code to find out more.

Questions remain for premier in BC Rail scandal

Allegations. Memo published by political blogger suggests Christy Clark allowed lobbyists access to confidential information

DANIEL PALMER
vancouver@metronews.ca

A document written by one of two men who pleaded guilty to corruption in the 2003 sale of BC Rail suggests Premier Christy Clark provided "unfettered access to cabinet information" to lobbyists during the bidding process while she was deputy premier.

The October 2003 memo — written by ex-B.C. Liberal staffer Dave Basi and witnessed by Basi's lawyer, George Jones — was posted Sunday by political blogger Alex Tsumakis, who said Basi has confirmed the authenticity of the document.

"This is the most explicit document alleging that Christy Clark and her staff provided information regularly out of cabinet to lobbyists working for OmniTrax, who were bidders on BC Rail," said John Van Dongen, former Liberal solicitor general and current Conservative MLA. Government business transacted in cabinet is considered confidential.

"It's an issue of ethics," Van Dongen said. "I think there's been enough evidence tendered that (Clark) has got to issue a black-and-white denial that she's ever done any of this or she should be putting herself under the scrutiny of a public inquiry of her conduct."

Van Dongen was granted intervenor status earlier this month to support auditor general John Doyle's efforts to uncover key documents related to the 2010 guilty pleas of Basi and Bob Virk, who were able to walk away from $6 million in legal fees. A motion filed by Van Dongen will be heard Sept. 10 in B.C. Supreme Court.

The premier's office was unavailable for comment by deadline.

Premier Christy Clark is under scrutiny over the sale of BC Rail. METRO FILE

Mayors' TransLink rejection upsets minister

Transportation Minister Blair Lekstrom speaks to media Monday about his disappointment with the regional mayors' decision to reject the chair and vice-chair positions on the TransLink board of directors. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Transportation Minister Blair Lekstrom says the regional mayors' decision to reject the two seats on the TransLink board shows that they want their way or the highway.

Last week, the mayors' council turned down the provincial government's offer to give two members of the council seats — chair and vice-chair — on the unelected TransLink board of directors.

"I guess what (the mayors are) saying is unless they get their way, no other way is good enough," Lekstrom said outside the provincial government offices in Vancouver Monday.

He said the government's offer, which came two months after the province rejected the mayors' bid for changes in TransLink's governance model, was a "positive step in the right direction."

"I made it very clear at the very beginning when governance was brought up for discussion that we were not about to blow up the existing model and that I would work with the mayors' council," he said.

"(The mayors) are saying that unless they control 100 per cent of the board, they don't want the seats," he added.

Metro Vancouver mayors haven't been unhappy with the transit authority's board of directors, saying they haven't had a strong enough voice when it comes to transportation priorities and decisions.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

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Report calls on UN to combat AIDS by dropping drug war

Public-health approach. Researcher says enforcement of drug laws is tied to rates of infection

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

A report that cites the success of Vancouver's supervised-injection site in reducing the prevalence of HIV-AIDS is urging several United Nations bodies to adopt a cohesive stance on harm reduction and abandon the war on drugs.

"How vigorously drug laws are enforced has no correlation to rates of drug use," said Dr. Evan Wood, lead researcher at the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS and an adviser on the Global Commission on Drug Policy report.

"Unfortunately, how vigorously drug laws are enforced is strongly related to various health-related harms, like rates of HIV infection."

Wood said Portugal took a public-health approach by decriminalizing all drugs in 2001, and the country now has some of the lowest rates of drug use in the European Union. B.C. has seen a similar shift.

"B.C. is quite unique in Canada in that the HIV rates are going down (and) new AIDS cases are going down, and that's really because B.C. has adopted a public-health approach to drug use, whereas in other Canadian provinces, rates of HIV are either staying the same or (going) up," he said.

Andreas Schloenhardt, an expert on transnational crime who has worked for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the University of British Columbia, said the report is advocating an incomplete strategy.

"A public-health approach to drug use alone, as suggested by Mr. Wood, does little to address the operations of international drug cartels, the illegal supply of narcotic and psychotropic substances, and the vast amounts of proceeds these crimes generate," he said via email from Australia, where he teaches law at the University of Queensland.

Quoted

"B.C. is quite unique in Canada in that the HIV rates are going down ... because B.C. has adopted a public-health approach to drug use."

Dr. Evan Wood, lead researcher, B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS

Dr. Evan Wood, lead researcher at the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, says HIV risk behaviour resulting from repressive drug-control policies is the main issue driving the HIV epidemic. MARTIN DEE/UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Crime

Langley shooting victims identified

Police have identified two men who died as a result of gunshot wounds at a residence in the 6400 block of Glover Road in Langley on Saturday.

Gordon Spencer, 27, was pronounced dead at the scene and Bruce Mayo, 22, died in hospital on Sunday.

Langley RCMP responded to a domestic dispute around 2:30 a.m. on Saturday and discovered two men with gunshot wounds inside a residence that had been heavily doused in bear spray.

Police arrested four men and one woman at the scene, ranging in age from 17 to 22, and all have since been released without charges.

The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team is continuing to interview neighbours and identify a motive in the shootings. Neither men was a resident of the building.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team at 877-551-4448 or contact Crime Stoppers.

DANIEL PALMER/METRO

New Delhi go-getter persists to overcome newcomer hurdles

The path to success looked smooth to Avnish Soni and his wife Pinki when they attended a New Delhi seminar about immigrating to Canada. Unfortunately, no one could anticipate the global economic crisis that greeted them in British Columbia in early 2009. Today, through personal persistence – and support from Scotiabank – the couple is progressing toward their goals.

Still in India, at a seminar sponsored by Scotiabank, the Soni family was excited about moving to Canada. Bank representatives explained financial services to help them get established in their new country, and Avnish, an MBA-trained branch manager at one of India's largest banks, was excited by the prospect of seeking work at the Canadian bank.

"I'm a go-getter and I liked how Scotiabank was proactive in sharing settlement information and pre-arranging banking and credit services," recalls Avnish, referring to the ***Scotiabank StartRight***® Program[1] for Newcomers, which includes a free day-to-day bank account for one year[2], a wide range of credit card options[3] and a number of other customized services and benefits. "I decided to make Canada's most international bank the first target in my job search."

On arrival in Surrey, BC, the experienced banker was pleasantly surprised when the Scotiabank Branch Manager emerged from his office to welcome the couple and their two daughters. "I was astonished by the friendly service and how our account and debit cards were waiting for us, as promised in New Delhi," says Avnish, who adds that his unsecured credit card was ready within a week.

While the weak economy challenged the Soni's immediate career hopes, the Scotiabank Branch Manager accepted Avnish's resumé and offered career tips. Pinki applied her teaching degree as a tutor.

"We stayed positive and kept working at it," notes Avnish, who worked odd jobs while he studied for his mutual funds license, joined professional associations, and often visited the Scotiabank branch to keep in touch. His determination paid off when some months later he was hired into the Bank's training program.

Today as a Senior Personal Banking Officer at Scotiabank's suburban White Rock Branch, Avnish is eager to dispense tips on personal finance, government services and career-building. "A newcomer has many fears of the unknown, and my goal is to be their friend and a trusted advisor, showing them how to lower expenses, manage credit, and learn how Canada works."

Career-wise, Avnish tells newcomers to stick with their goals, despite the hurdles. "Take a job to put food on the table, but don't lose focus on what you want to do. Work on your language skills, learn about job market expectations and see how you can add value," he says.

Perseverance also helps newcomers reach financial goals. "It's never too early to start a financial plan, and I guide newcomers on ways to start saving for a home or any goal. For my family and me, our journey has just begun, but we've got something to aim for and that's why we came here."

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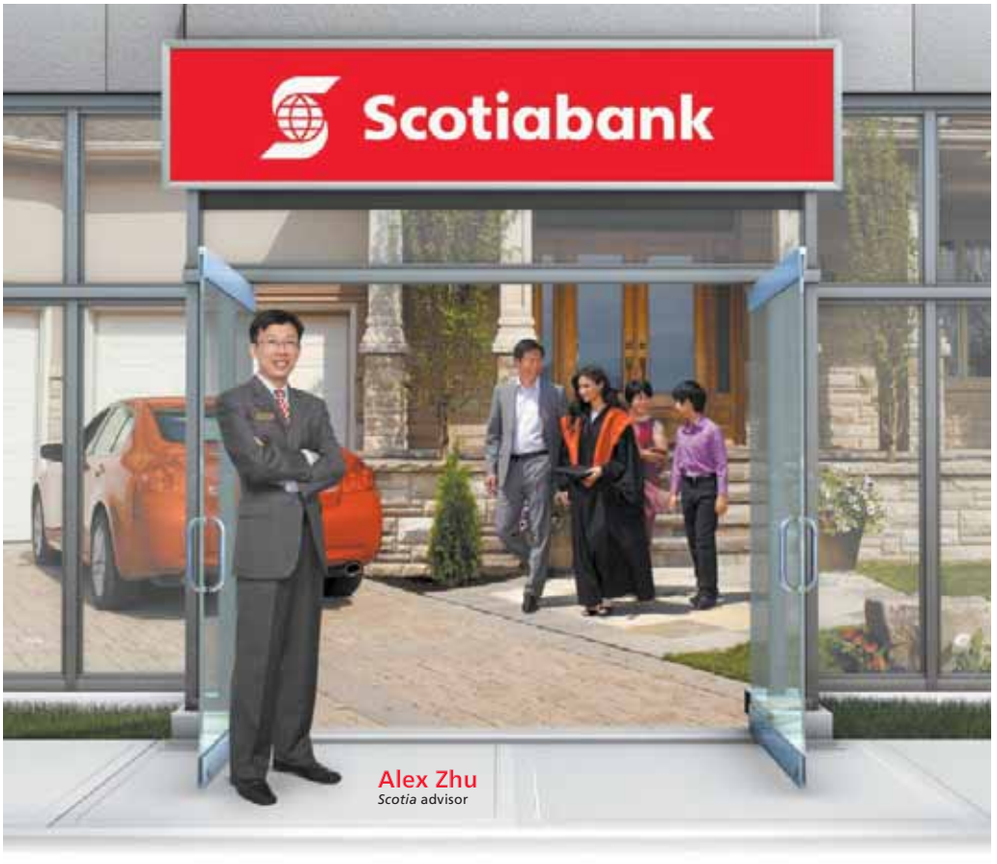
Scotiabank's Avnish Soni says persistence can help newcomers reach their goals.



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Student loans. Program a 'Band-Aid solution': Critics

The provincial government announced a reformulated student-loan repayment program on Monday, but critics say it is old news and fails to address systemic problems with post-secondary education funding.

The repayment assistance program, highlighted in Premier Christy Clark's Families First Agenda, gives low-income families greater relief in paying back provincial loans. The program was rolled out federally in 2008 and is based on the borrower's ability to repay — income, family size and student-loan debt load are considered in the eligibility process.

"It's not something that we're celebrating," said Katie Marocchi, the Canadian Federation of Students' B.C. chair. "If the provincial government wants to help families, they would reduce tuition fees and re-introduce the provincial grants program that was ended in 2005."

Marocchi said the program is a "Band-Aid solution to the root cause" of student-loan debt, which averages $27,000 for a university graduate.

Michelle Mungall, NDP advanced education critic, said 80 per cent of jobs will require some post-secondary training within five years and the government should restore up-front needs-based grants.

"It requires bold moves by government. Instead, we get a repackaging of an existing program," Mungall said.

DANIEL PALMER/FOR METRO

Crime

Cops investigate daytime shooting

Police are investigating a daytime shooting Monday that killed one person. Reports say a man was shot multiple times by a gunman outside a Starbucks on St. Johns Street. METRO

BC Coroners Service

Inquest into police shootout to be held

The coroners service says an inquest will be held into the death of Angus David Mitchell, 26, who died in a shootout with police May 30 after he was named a suspect in a homicide. METRO

A new kind of Playground emerges from underground

Innovation. Musical-collaboration project aims to connect people and make art

Professional photographers Adam Schelle and Kev Holloway want to make music with you. CONTRIBUTED

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

Imagine an event with free beer, free entry, and 120 people all collaborating to record an original song in less than one hour.

Vancouver photographers Adam Schelle and Kev Holloway did, and while the event has been a bit of an underground secret since it was first held in March 2011, they let the cat out of the bag last Thursday when they made a presentation at the Vogue Theatre's sold-out Pecha Kucha Night.

"It's not about the money," explained Schelle. "The goal is always to connect people, and the goal is definitely the art, the creativity that is the result of the process."

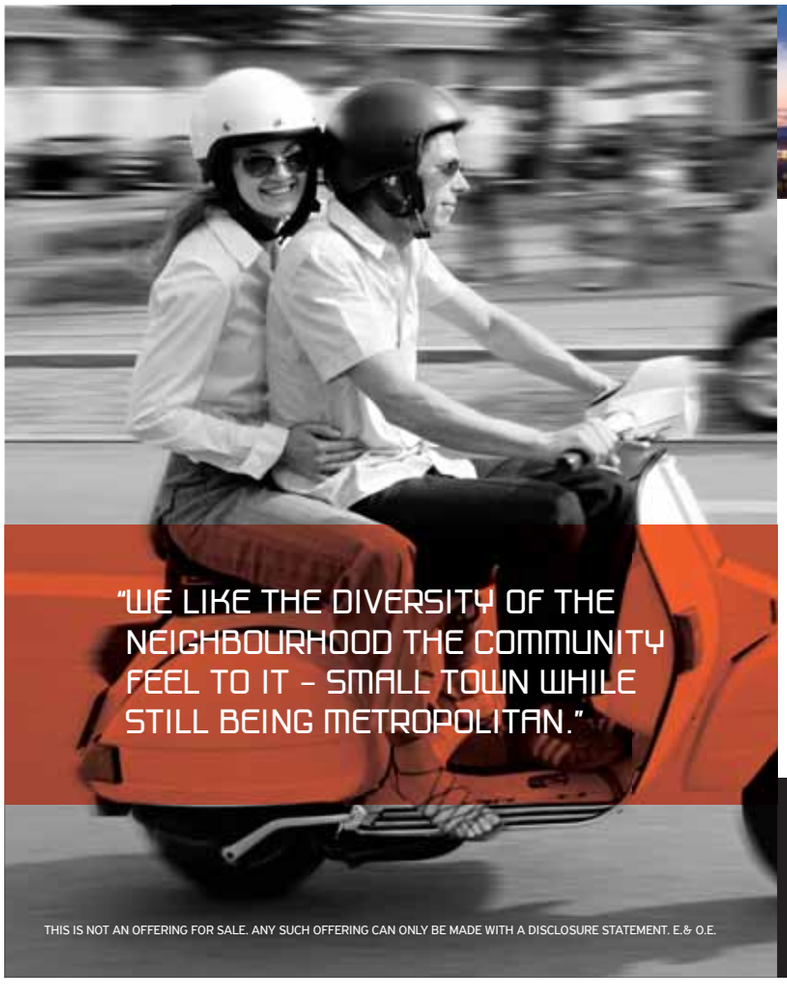
Playground, as it is known, invites an established band to lead the collaboration, but everyone is encouraged to participate, regardless of musical prowess.

Schelle and Holloway are adamant that the event stay free, even to the point of covering miscellaneous costs out of their own pockets, but they are looking for sponsors so they can stop doing that. They already have sponsorships from local breweries — hence the free beer.

So far there have been four Playground nights, and at the last one held in May they had more RSVPs than room for everyone.

"Ultimately it's a free event with free booze and an interesting music concept, so it's really not a hard sell," Schelle laughed.

To get on the invite list for the next Playground, which is planned for late August or early September if a sponsor is found, visit playground.is.



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Local residents react as they listen in during a news conference in Elliot Lake, Ont., on Monday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Search efforts to continue after appeal from public, premier

Elliot Lake, Ont.
Officials initially called off mall search due to concerns over a possible second collapse

Officials in Elliot Lake, Ont., say they are resuming rescue efforts at a partially collapsed mall after an appeal from Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty.

The turnabout came just hours after the search efforts were called off because it was deemed too dangerous to send crews inside. They told a news conference a plan is still in the works.

McGuinty told The Canadian Press late Monday night that he asked that any other options be considered, including using heavy equipment to dismantle the building from the outside.

The premier says if a member of his family or a close friend might have been inside, he would want "no stone left unturned," and they owe it to the families and community of Elliot Lake to give it the best shot.

Dozens of local residents protested in front of city hall after the decision to abandon the search was announced, saying it was too soon to give up.

A parking lot on the roof of the shopping centre crashed two floors down into the mall below on Saturday afternoon.

Although the sound of tapping, which led rescuers to believe someone was still alive inside the rubble, stopped on Sunday morning, officials say a device called a life detector has indicated there's someone breathing inside.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Staying positive

"We've all banded together. We talk, we hug. We're just here together."
Catherine Timleck-Shaw, Elliot Lake, Ont., resident

Scouts Canada. Police not told of alleged sexual misconduct: Review

A forensic review of Scouts Canada's records reveals authorities were not contacted about at least 65 cases of alleged sexual misconduct against youths.

"We are deeply and truly sorry for any harm that has happened at the hand of volunteers that were in our organization," said Steve Kent, Scouts Canada's volunteer chief commissioner at a press conference Monday.

"We will do everything that we can to prevent such instances from happening in the future and we encourage victims to talk to us."

The accounting firm KPMG conducted a seven-month audit of Scouts files, many of which were "disorganized" and "incomplete," according to an analysis of 486 identified records provided by Scouts Canada.

Steve Kent of Scouts Canada
METRO IN OTTAWA

The records were related to suspension and termination of volunteers for alleged sexual misconduct against youths from 1947 to 2011.

In addition to the 65 cases, there were 64 cases where it was unclear whether authorities were contacted.

During the review process Scouts Canada provided information about those cases to police forces, which are investigating. In 29 other cases, Scouts Canada had already contacted police. In 328 cases, police were aware of the allegation of sexual abuse before Scouts Canada.

Learning from past mistakes, the organization said it will now "rigorously" implement a new Child and Youth Safety Plan, which includes improved adult screening and training.

JOE LOFARO/METRO IN OTTAWA

New Egyptian president gets to work

New Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi went to work first thing Monday morning and started forming a government.

This was even before he had a clear picture of what he could do after the ruling military stripped most of the major powers from his post.

Morsi, 60, a U.S.-trained engineer from the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood group, is the first Islamist president of Egypt, also the first civilian.

He defeated Mubarak's last prime minister, Ahmed Shafiq, in a tight race that deeply polarized the nation.

The country breathed a sigh of relief that at least the question of who won the presidential runoff had been resolved on Sunday, after the first free and fair elections in Egypt's modern history.

People returned to work a day after a panic that sent many home early for fear that violence might erupt when the winner was announced.

Quoted

"His priority is the stability on the political scene."

Yasser Ali, a spokesman for Morsi. The new president faces enormous challenges of improving the economy and maintaining law and order.

Traffic was flowing again through Cairo's Tahrir Square, the birthplace of last year's uprising and a major intersection that had been blocked for a week by Morsi supporters protesting against the military.

State TV showed footage of Morsi meeting Monday with the ruling military. The generals gave themselves sweeping powers that undercut the president. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putin makes quick trip to Israel

Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers a speech during an inauguration ceremony of a memorial to Red Army veterans of the Second World War in Netanya, Israel, Monday. The West's standoff with Iran over its nuclear program was expected to top the agenda as Putin began a 24-hour visit to Israel. JACK GUEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leaving the tinderbox

General defects from Syria

A Syrian general was among the latest defectors from the country's military, officials said Monday. Dozens of Syrian soldiers fled overnight to Turkey, crossing the border with their families. The general defected in recent days, Turkish officials said.

Then, according to the state-run Anadolu news agency, 33 soldiers crossed the border overnight. There are conflicting reports that a second general defected as well.

Thousands of soldiers have abandoned the regime. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tunisia

Jail time over Mohammed cartoons upheld

A Tunisian court has upheld seven-and-a-half-year sentences on convictions of posting cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed on Facebook.

Jaber Majeri and an associate were each sentenced to jail and fined $800 US.

The stiff sentence shocked many Tunisians and was seen as a sign of the new importance of Islam in Tunisia.

Bochra Belhaj Hamida, the defence lawyer, condemned the court decision. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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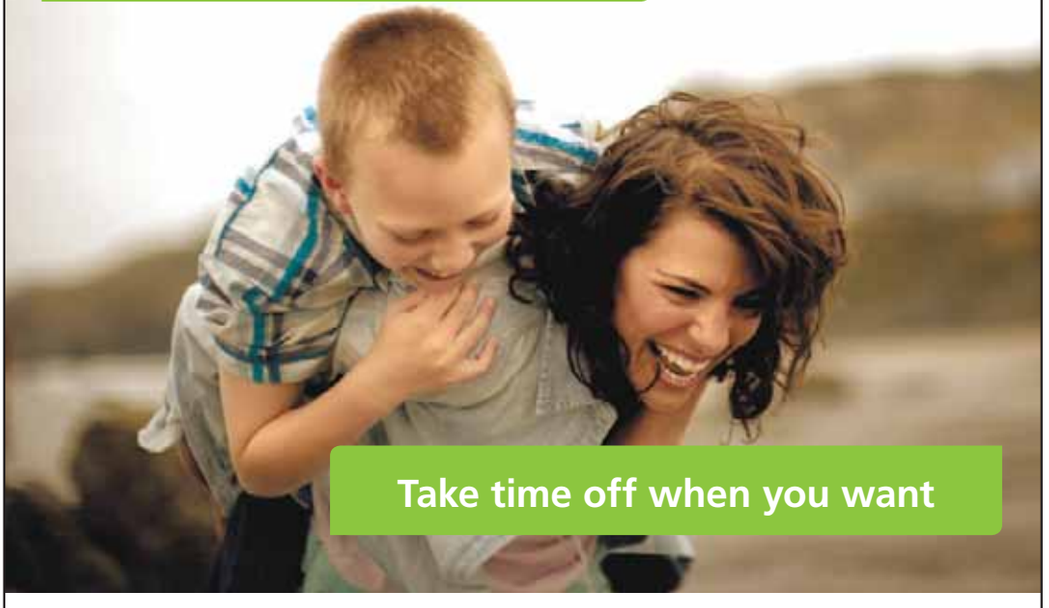

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19 killed after bus goes off bridge in South Africa

Rescue workers and investigators stand behind body bags containing the remains of victims of a bus crash in Meyerton, South Africa, on Monday. At least 19 people were killed and 55 injured when the bus plummeted off a bridge. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds are feared dead after landslides

Uganda. Villages destroyed and at least 15 houses buried following torrential rain, Red Cross says

Massive landslides induced by torrential rains destroyed three villages in the mountainous district of Bududa in eastern Uganda, killing possibly hundreds of people, officials said Monday.

Disaster Preparedness Minister Stephen Mallinga said it was still too early to say how many had been killed in Monday afternoon's landslides, but officials from Bududa said the final death toll would likely be in the hundreds.

"We are sending a rescue team down there," Mallinga said. "It's very difficult to estimate how many have been killed."

Witnesses said the landslides were unexpected, happening several hours after a torrential overnight downpour that at first seemed to have done little damage.

David Wakikona, a lawmaker from the region, said most people were likely indoors when huge blocks of mud and rocks started to roll down hills, toppling homes, killing livestock and burying people alive.

"We don't yet understand how this all happened, but it's terrible," Wakikona said. "Three villages have been buried."

According to Wakikona, at least 300 people lived in the affected villages. Officials said rescue teams from the Ugandan army would play a lead role in moving the soil as the search for possible survivors begins.

The Uganda Red Cross said that at least 15 houses had been buried in the landslides. It may take time before the full death toll is known.

Landslides are a common occurrence in the hilly parts of eastern Uganda, and they have been especially lethal over the years in those villages where the land is denuded of vegetation cover.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Walmart Canada ramps up hiring

Expansion. Already one of Canada's largest employers, retail giant plans to hire 3,100 more workers by end of 2013

Walmart Canada is ramping up hiring amid rapid expansion in this country by the U.S.-based retail giant.

Walmart says it will open 47 hiring centres across the country as it adds a total of some 4,000 new employees this year and next, about 500 more than previously announced.

The mass retailer pays "above minimum wage," which varies by province, said Alex Roberton, spokesman for Walmart Canada, adding that employees can also participate in a profit-sharing program.

Roberton said the chain is "looking to hear" from former Zellers employees, whose experience would be taken into consideration.

"We decided on a democratic approach so we're looking at everybody the same way, but with the Zellers employees, they're all being interviewed," he said.

In addition to the permanent jobs, the various projects are expected to generate some 10,500 construction jobs.

"We are extremely excited to be adding more than 4,000 new associates to our team," said Bob Hakeem, senior vice-president of people at Walmart Canada, using the company's preferred term for employee.

Walmart Canada pharmacies are also in the midst of a significant hiring phase.

"We have already hired many pharmacy associates that previously worked for Zellers and are looking to fill additional positions," said Eric Muir, senior vice-president, Health and Wellness at Walmart Canada.

Walmart Canada has already hired 900 employees this year, from sales associates to managers in its stores across the country, to field operations and home-office positions.

Already one of Canada's largest employers, it plans to hire an additional 3,100 workers by the end of 2013, raising its overall Canadian payroll to 94,000.

Walmart said more than half of the 73 projects will become supercentres, which offer an array of groceries as well as general merchandise. The retailer opened its first Canadian supercentres in Ontario in 2006 and has since ramped up expansion plans for the large-store concept.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Facing competition

By the end of 2013, Walmart Canada expects to spend some $750 million to open, relocate or remodel 73 stores.

- Included are most of the 39 former Zellers stores for which Walmart Canada purchased leasehold rights in June 2011. They will reopen as Walmart stores in this fiscal year.
- The expansion comes as competition in the Canadian retail market heats up with the entry of fellow discount retailer Target next year. Target plans to open 125 to 135 stores.

Samsung's latest model

Models display Samsung Electronics' newest smartphone, the Galaxy S III, during its world tour in Seoul, South Korea, on Monday. Samsung, the world's top mobile-phone maker, said it expects global sales of the latest Galaxy smartphone to surpass 10 million in July even as it struggles to keep up with demand because of component shortages. The company said the Galaxy S III will be released in 147 countries by the end of July, aiming to get a jump on rival Apple before it announces a new version of the iPhone in the third quarter. Samsung released the smartphone through all major mobile U.S. carriers last week. SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tech trouble

RIM shares slide after downgrade

Research In Motion shares hit their lowest level since 2003 on Monday as the company was downgraded by investment firm Morgan Stanley, which called the company "essentially broken."

Shares in RIM traded as low as $9.27 on Monday on the Toronto Stock Exchange, its lowest level since 2003 after adjusting for stock splits. The stock closed down 76 cents at $9.36.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
97.16¢ US (-0.44¢)

TSX
11,330.39 (-105.15)

OIL
$79.21 US (-55¢)

GOLD
$1,588.40 US (+$21.50)

Natural gas: $2.694 US (+6.9¢)
Dow Jones: 12,502.66 (-138.12)

SEXISM IS NO JOKE

SHE SAYS...
Jessica Napier
metronews.ca/shesays

Every once in a while, you can count on some male comedian to drag out the hackneyed "girls-aren't-funny" routine to try to gain some attention — or, in Adam Carolla's case, sell a book.

In an interview with the New York Post last week, the comedian complained about his personal struggle (eye roll) with unfunny female colleagues. "They make you hire a certain number of chicks, and they're always the least funny on the writing staff," he whined. "The reason why you know more funny dudes than funny chicks is that dudes are funnier than chicks."

It's pretty pathetic when a 48-year-old man uses words like "dudes" and "chicks" to offer commentary on gender roles in comedy. But I suppose this is the type of enlightened discourse we can expect from the comic genius behind The Man Show, a now-defunct program that featured such classic bro-centric segments as Guess Whose Asscrack and Breast Implant Fashion Show.

If Carolla expects his staff writers to rely on low-brow, homophobic (GLAAD recently lambasted Carolla after he joked that the LGBT acronym should be changed to YUCK), frat-boy humour to get cheap laughs, then I'm not surprised to learn that he hasn't encountered many women who adhere to his idea of funny.

In reality

"There are a growing number of female comedians disproving these sexist theories, both in front of the camera and behind the scenes."

Sadly, while the backlash against Carolla's misogynistic remarks was substantial, he's not alone in his sexist ideas. The late Christopher Hitchens opined a similar argument in his infamous 2007 Vanity Fair essay titled Why Women Aren't Funny.

In the piece, Hitchens suggested that men are obliged to be funny in order to attract members of the opposite sex. "Women have no corresponding need to appeal to men in this way," he wrote. "They already appeal to men, if you catch my drift." Presumably, Hitchens' drift is that men are only attracted to women in a superficial (read: libido-driven) way. Underlying this belief is the dangerously chauvinist assumption that women are to be looked at, not heard from.

Thankfully, there are a growing number of female comedians disproving these sexist theories, both in front of the camera and behind the scenes. Kristen Wiig, Lena Dunham, Mindy Kaling, Wanda Sykes, Tina Fey, Betty White — the list of women who are funnier (not to mention more successful) than Adam Carolla is endless. These women produce and star in their own films and TV shows, they win awards, and they narrate audiobooks that will make you laugh aloud like a lunatic on the bus during your morning commute.

As for Adam Carolla, this washed-up man-child should go back to hosting his wildly successful podcast that you've probably never heard of.

Adam Carolla debuted his second book, Not Taco Bell Material, on June 12. It's a memoir of the comedian's life from the early years up to the present day. KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES FILE

New Yorkers beam at WTC site

SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

9-11 memorial site

Beam completes steel skeleton

A construction worker signs the last steel beam before it is hoisted 300 metres to the top of 4 World Trade Center on Monday in New York City.

The trapezoidal glass and steel office building, which is designed as an architectural backdrop to the September 11 Memorial, is scheduled to open in 2013.

GETTY

Construction worker Frank Gasior gazes as the last steel beam is hoisted to the top of 4 World Trade Center. GETTY IMAGES

Then and now

"Ten years later, it's pretty remarkable. This is a very proud moment. It's full circle."

Sally Rexach, a nurse who aids workers at the site as she did during the rescue and recovery work following Sept. 11. She said she had tears streaming down her face while the beam was lifted into the sky.

First tower completed

Redevelopment long overdue

Developer Larry Silverstein told the crowd that his goal was "to give New Yorkers back the city terrorists tried to take away."

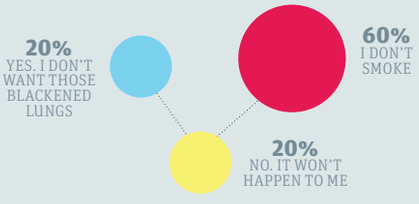
After years of funding and planning disagreements that at times threatened progress, Silverstein acknowledged, "It's been a very tough time." But added, "I've always believed in downtown New York."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Are the new graphic labels on cigarette packs enough to make you quit?



Twitter

@jfresh604: Finally a day in Vancouver that's starting to resemble summer #Abouttime

@mjeso: New BC Rail allegations about political involvement in bidding. Risk of same as govt to sell another 1 billion in public assets?#bcpoli

@JessCorny2: Looking forward to going to the BC Lions game on Friday! #BCLions

@SteveBrownBC: What, we all get to subsidize student loan repayments now in BC? This after I have already paid for my own education/experience? Nice....

@crankyjim: Surely any remaining #BCLiberals supporters MUST see the writing on the wall with their continued support of @christyclarkbc . #bcpoli

metro

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Alex Pettyfer bares all

Magic Mike. Actor talks about psyching himself up for semi-nude dancing

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Magic Mike opens in theatres on Friday. HANDOUT

While audiences are already familiar with Alex Pettyfer after a busy 2011 — with I am Number Four, Beastly and In Time — they are about to see a lot more of him, to put it lightly, with the release of Magic Mike. Pettyfer stars as a newcomer to the world of male stripping taken under the wing of the titular Mike (Channing Tatum, who is also the inspiration for Pettyfer's character). Stripping may seem like a daunting gig, but it turns out baring all didn't bother him as much as learning to dance.

How awkward have interviews for this film been?
I guess you kind of like dive into the fact that when you do a male stripper movie, they're going to ask you interesting questions. So you have to take everything and bite the bullet. Yes, I think the most frequently asked question is biggest wardrobe malfunction. And I think the biggest wardrobe malfunction that you have is that when you wear a thong and you have screaming girls, it can accidentally fly off. Thank God that didn't happen to me. It was during Matthew (McConaughey's) dance. It was kind of very funny.

Once you've signed up for a role like this, clearly you know what you're in for. But how do you mentally psych yourself up for it?
It's a very scary thought, one, to dance, as I've never danced before, and two — the fact that you're going to dance practically naked, you kind just wrap your head around the fact that you've got to dive into it fully. And the fact that all the other guys are in the same boat as us, doing the same thing and — apart from Channing — not having the experience beforehand, and having the experiences firsthand on the set was also very calming. I had to learn how to dance, because I can't dance. At all. To save my life. (laughs). But at the end of the day, you don't want to go to a male strip club and we're all perfect, classic dancers. What's great about the movie is that it's fun and mistakes are forgiven. It's an amazing thing to watch the flaws of a stripper because more comedy and more grime equals more reaction.

You're not playing Channing Tatum per se, but he is the basis for your character. Having him there must be...
A little awkward (laughs). It's a little awkward, yeah, because obviously he's a phenomenal dancer, for one, and you can't compete with that. And he's lived this life. But it actually really helped me, personally, because the awkwardness and vulnerability of not having experienced what goes on in this world was actually what my character had to experience, so it actually really helped.

You also had some very enthusiastic extras on set for the dance numbers.

Showgirls

What about that other stripper movie?

"A friend asked me if this is the male Showgirls — which it really isn't. I almost had a heart attack there. Like, are we Showgirls? Oh, f—!," says Pettyfer.

But will people draw that connection anyway, because it's a movie about stripping? Pettyfer doesn't think so.

"You follow the characters through a journey," he says.

"It just happens to be in the world of male stripping."

They were phenomenal. I wouldn't really call them actresses because I think they were very, very glad to be there. On most film sets with background, you have to be like, "Give more!" And with these guys, for 12 hours straight they were screaming.

2 SCENE

Scene in brief

Billy Ray heads to Broadway

Country singer Billy Ray Cyrus is making his Broadway debut in Chicago. The singer of Achy Breaky Heart and father of Miley Cyrus is detouring from his Nashville roots in taking on the role of criminal lawyer Billy Flynn for a seven-week engagement beginning Nov. 5. Cyrus starred with his daughter in the hit TV series Hannah Montana, and has acted in TV movies on Lifetime and the Hallmark Channel. Cyrus has also hosted country music's Nashville Star and was a competitor on Dancing With The Stars.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Black Keys sue Pizza Hut, Home Depot for copyright infringement over song use in ads

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Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart

Robert and Kristen were 'all over each other'

Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart turned heads at the star-studded wedding of Hollywood producer Kevin Turen and Evelina Oboza in New Jersey over the weekend, according to Us Weekly, partying with guests until 7 a.m. and engaging in some fairly public displays of affection.

"Rob and Kristen were all over each other," a source says. Pattinson also got a chance to let loose with Andrew Garfield and Zac Efron during the reception: "There was a little area where you could go and play music," the source explains.

"Rob sang, Andrew played the bongos, Zac played the guitar. It was a whole spectacle."

Twitter

@Joan_Rivers
Who is Hollywood's hottest couple? Emma Stone and Andrew Garfield! They're like Brangelina, but without the child labor.

@DaveChappelle
I can't think of anything provocative to tweet, and yet, I must continue... Must...keep....tweeting.

@Diane_Keaton
Researching for my next book concept. What is your idea of beauty? Talk to me.

@AlbertBrooks
I might be crazy but I'm positive I saw Mubarak at the mall today.

Reese Witherspoon acknowledges her bump

While her baby bump has grown, Reese Witherspoon has stayed relatively mum on her pregnancy — her first with new husband Jim Toth.

But she finally acknowledged the obvious while at an event in Chicago, according to the Chicago Sun Times.

"Frankly, I'm feeling very round tonight," she told the crowd. When a reporter suggested she avoid the city's famously hearty food, she added, "Maybe, but it's not easy. I'm always feeling like I'd like to eat everything in sight."

As for her immediate plans, Witherspoon is currently shooting Devil's Knot with Colin Firth in Atlanta.

"After that, I'm going to take a little time off — and go have a baby," Witherspoon said.

Reese Witherspoon

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Anthony Bourdain ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Anthony Bourdain: Off with their heads

MONICA WEYMOUTH
scene@metronews.ca

Somewhere between continent-hopping and mysterious cauldrons of soup, chef and No Reservations host Anthony Bourdain found the time to pen a graphic novel.

Part kitchen revenge fantasy, part kung-fu foodie fun, Get Jiro! includes a scene in which a man is decapitated for ordering a blasphemous California roll.

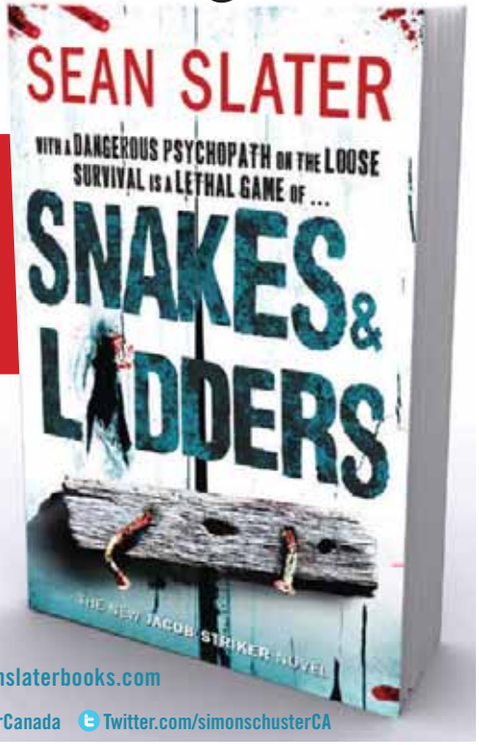
"There are people who work 60 years trying to get the same 20 to 25 pieces of classic sushi perfect, but they know they will never reach that point. That kind of drive for perfection deserves respect," Bourdain told us when we caught up with him this week in New York City.

"So when you see somebody go into a regular sushi bar and treat it like it's crap or just another meal, well, I fantasized about seeing somebody lose their head!"

We wonder what the recommended punishment would be for a sriracha sprinkle. Not that we'd ever do that. We're just wondering — for our savage friends, whose heads aren't ours.

Detective Jacob Striker is playing a dangerous game.

From the author of *The Survivor*, a new novel of the mean streets of Vancouver.


SEAN SLATER
WITH A DANGEROUS PSYCHOPATH ON THE LOOSE SURVIVAL IS A LETHAL GAME OF ...
SNAKES & LADDERS
THE NEW JACOB STRIKER NOVEL

'(Slater) not only knows police work, he knows how to write about it....this is gritty Vancouver as tourists never see it.'
— The Globe & Mail

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Go meatless this summer

Food for thought. The Meatless Monday campaign is fighting to reduce global meat consumption by urging carnivores to go veggie one day a week. In the Meat Free Monday Cookbook veteran vegetarian, Beatles singer Paul McCartney, shares his favourite recipes. Here's one:

ROMINA McGUINNESS
Metro World News

It's no secret that a diet high in processed red meat can dramatically increase the risk of death from heart disease or cancer. But with the summer barbecue season in full swing, we've been gorging on burgers most weekends. Will cheese and beans ever rival the real deal? Probably not. But it's time to tackle the scary truth, one steak at a time.

This is a fantastic salad. Here it's served with tofu, but you could just as easily serve it with veggie burgers or vegetarian sausages, as well as fries and mashed potatoes.

Paul McCartney's Super Vegetable Salad

If you're looking for something other than a steak, this is the dish for you. CONTRIBUTED

1 Preheat the oven to 400°F and roast the cherry tomatoes for 10 minutes.

2 Cover the bottom of a pan with cold water and place a steamer above it. Put the broccoli, green beans, and carrots in the steamer, turn the heat on quite high, and steam for about 15 minutes, occasionally prodding the carrots with a fork to see if they are done. Some people like them slightly crunchy, others prefer them a little softer.

3 While the vegetables are steaming, make a salad with the leaves and scallions.

4 Combine the cornmeal and herbs in a bowl. Heat some olive oil in a frying pan. Dip the tofu in the cornmeal mixture and then fry until golden.

5 Whisk together the ingredients for the dressing, but only pour over at the last minute.

Ingredients

Serves 4

- 28 cherry tomatoes
- 3 florets of broccoli
- 12 green beans, cut into 1 inch lengths
- 2 carrots, peeled and sliced into 1 inch pieces
- 1 lettuce — I like Romaine
- 3 scallions, finely chopped
- 2/3 cup cornmeal
- a handful of chopped herbs of your choice
- 9 ounces tofu, cut into slices
- olive oil for frying

For the dressing

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard (optional)
- 1 teaspoon maple syrup (if you like a bit of sweetness)

3 LIFE

Health minute

Why go meatless?

Why should people aim to reduce their consumption of red meat? Metro asked Meatless Monday founder, Sid Lerner, for a few reasons: "Animal fat is the villain. Red meat is high in cholesterol and saturated fat and knocking it off the menu is good for your health. And eating mass amounts of red meat messes up the environment."

METRO

On the Web

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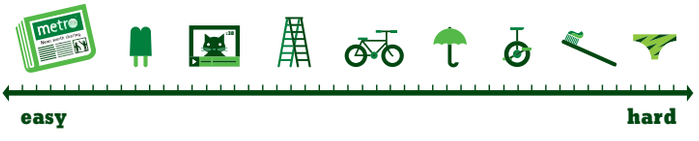

Pay down your mortgage.

In the dark: Don't miss a mortgage payment because the Internet is down. CONTRIBUTED

Does the Net handle all your finances?

Plugged in. Trying to pay a bill or cancel a card can be a total nightmare when the Internet is down — have a back-up plan

YOUR MONEY
Alison Griffiths
money@metronews.ca
Twitter: @alisononmoney

We're all pretty much tech addicts these days and nowhere is this dependency more evident than in our Internet love affair. But everyone must have a fall back plan if you lose your connection, especially for financial data. I know of what I write.

This week I lost my service for a couple of hours and it pretty much brought my work to a standstill. I couldn't access e-mail, let alone pay bills or check my calendar. I also had to contact my bank regarding a transaction. But have you ever tried to contact a specific person at a branch when you can't even locate a current phone book?

When the Internet abandons you the biggest concern is accessing your financial life. Delays could mean interest charges or other penalties.

One reader missed making his RRSP contribution when he lost service the night of the deadline. That cost him thousands in tax.

Here are four important steps you should take to protect your finances from cyber interruption.

1. **Save.** With programs such as Yahoo or Gmail, which are not resident in your computer, save important e-mails to your hard disk. Search the respective help programs for instructions. But I find it is even quicker to cut and paste e-bills or other important financial e-mails and save them in Word.

The advantage here is that you can make notes about when a bill is paid or add information about changing a cell or cable package, for example, with the relevant confirmation number. Assuming you back up your computer the information is easily accessible, Net or no Net.

2. **Contacts.** Print your contact list and make sure you have contact numbers for every bill you pay as well as for your bank and brokerage. Store it somewhere safe.

3. **Inventory.** Have a hard copy of all banking information including account numbers, passwords and security questions. I abbreviate the latter two for safety. For extra protection store it in a safety deposit box but be aware that if the bank isn't open you're stuck.

4. **Calendar.** Maintain a simple hard copy calendar or one resident on your computer noting when all bills are due. It will be a lifesaver if the Internet goes dark.

Alison's money rule

"Love the Net but be sure to have a financial back-up plan for when it fails."

ALISON GRIFFITHS IS THE AUTHOR OF COUNT ON YOURSELF: TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY. REACH HER AT ALISONGRIFFITHS.CA OR AT GRIFFITHS.ALISON@GMAIL.COM

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On the cheap

Ten ways to save money moving

FUN AND FRUGAL
Leslie Scorgie
money@metronews.ca
Twitter: @Lesleyscorgie

I spent this past weekend moving out of my suburban house and into my new downtown condo. Though I knew it would be expensive, I underestimated the timing of my total costs.

My VISA card hasn't seen this much action in one weekend since the time it was stolen four years ago.

Here are ten easy ways to save big when moving.

1. In advance of your move, prepare a budget. A budget is a tool to help you plan for your total moving expenses so you can avoid unnecessary debt once the bills start rolling in. Include costs such as truck rental, mileage, movers, soft costs and more.

2. **Plan for soft costs which fall outside of your expected moving expenses such as utility, cable, Internet and phone hook-ups.** Closing costs for a house such as legal fees and taxes can add up to thousands. Don't get caught off-guard by soft costs! Ask your realtor or lawyer what to expect.

3. Downsize before you move so there will be less to transport. I sold 80 per cent of my furniture prior to moving through Kijiji. I also donated boxes of clothes, coats, boots, games and other household goods to a local charity. Use websites such as Craigslist, Kijiji, eBay and others to off-load your goods.

4. Rather than paying a moving company to pack up, transport, and unpack your house, do it yourself. If you're moving locally, bribe your friends to help with pizza, beer, begging and a big "thank you". Borrow a pick-up truck, and cart your things over by the truckload.

If you've got a long haul to your new place, rent a truck through a company like U-Haul. Alternatively, it can be more affordable to ship your stuff using a pod rather than a moving truck.

5. If you need to hire movers, get multiple quotes, which will help you negotiate for the best rate. Work alongside with movers, so that you can reduce the time it takes and total billable hours. Save big by moving in the off season or mid-week rather than on the weekend.

6. Negotiate everything. Moving company's fees, truck rates, and much more are negotiable. Ask for a discount, present a competitive offer and if the manager doesn't want to cut you a deal, take your business elsewhere.

7. Clean up yourself. Unlike my new condo, which was a pigsty when I took possession, most new homes are supposed to be clean. Don't hire a cleaner. Grab your rubber gloves and start scrubbing.

8. Save on packing supplies. Borrow boxes from friends, or ask your local grocery store for free ones. Dollar stores sell inexpensive packing tape and markets. Use your clothes, towels and sheets to wrap delicate items rather than buying bubble wrap.

9. Deduct qualified moving expenses from your taxes. Check with your accountant whether your expenses are deductible and keep all of your moving receipts.

10. If you're moving for work, ask your employer to pay for it.

Don't forget to put your piggy bank in the U-Haul van. ISTOCK IMAGES

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®Aeroplan is a Registered Trademark of Aeroplan Canada Inc. Offer expires June 30, 2012. For details, visit cibc.com/buildthousands. "Life adds up. Your finances should too." and Design and CIBC Wealth Builder Mortgage are TMs of CIBC. "CIBC For what matters." is a trademark of CIBC.

All good lunch columns go to foodie heaven — even this one

Chickpea Fritter Sandwich ($8) with Chilled Tomato Soup ($4). ERIN IRELAND

LUNCH RUSH
Erin Ireland
life@metronews.ca

When I asked Top Chef Canada finalist Trevor Bird what to order from his new restaurant's dinner menu, he replied without blinking, "Canned tuna."

Watch a few episodes of the reality show and you'll begin to trust the young chef's ballsy decisions. One bite into his recommendation and I was sold — this time, in real life.

He wasn't around when I returned to Fable for lunch, but considering his passion and skill (as seen on TV), and the four dinner-time dishes I tried (and loved), a recommendation wasn't necessary.

You'll find three sandwiches and four sides — served a la carte style — on the small menu. The Chickpea Fritter Sandwich arrived looking gorgeous and smelling of fresh bread. Bright pink house-pickled onion, salty chickpea fritters and pea shoots were piled high between light ciabatta, lathered with curry mayo and very mild raita.

A mason jar of Chilled Tomato Soup was the meal's highlight. Thick, creamy and topped with fresh basil — it was delightful.

I'm sad to say that this is the last Lunch Rush column. If you'd like to stay in touch, follow me on Twitter @erin_ireland.

Visiting the restaurant

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Price range. $$

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Social lunch. Yes

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2. In a medium skillet over a medium-high temperature, heat the olive oil. Add the onion, garlic and thyme, then sauté for 5 minutes, or until the onion starts to get tender. Season with salt and pepper, then set aside.

3. Split each English muffin in half and arrange cut side up on a baking sheet. Set under the broiler just long enough to lightly toast, about 1 minute.

4. Top each muffin half with a brie, then spoon a bit of the onion mixture over each. Place under the broiler for another minute. Transfer the halves to serving plates, then top each with a spoonful of honeycomb. Serve immediately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 4 large whole-wheat English muffins
- 6 ounces brie, thinly sliced
- Honeycomb

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How to socialize your partner and not be annoying

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Dear Charles,
I have to admit that the man I chose to be my boyfriend has some traits that I would prefer he did not possess. OK, I admit it: I think he has bad manners. For example, he has a habit of forgetting to ask for his water without ice at restaurants. At the end of the meal, he wants to drink water without ice, so he scoops ice out with a fork or a spoon and puts it in his empty plate. Then he drinks the water. Sometimes I try not to let it bother me, especially when we're in a really casual restaurant. However the other night he did it in a small, fancier restaurant, and I could see people looking at him. How do I socialize my boyfriend without being an annoying girlfriend who is overtly trying to socialize her boyfriend? I've tried to model ordering water without ice (even though I prefer ice) but he doesn't get the hint. Rolling my eyes and being annoyed when he does stuff like that is more effective at getting him to stop, but I don't like acting like that.
Stressed Girlfriend

Take the hint, honey! ISTOCK

Dear Stressed Girlfriend,

I'm a firm believer you must deal with this issue head on and sooner rather than later, so how do we do this?

Firstly, not in public, nor in front of a waiter, pick a private place when it is just the two of you. Once alone, I think I would just come right out and say, "You know John, I've noticed that when you pick the ice out of your glass, people at the tables around us are staring at you, and it is making me uncomfortable. Would you please do me a favour and when you order water, can you please order it without ice?"

The reason I like this method is because it tells him about others who have observed his behaviour and as his girlfriend, how this makes you uncomfortable.

Please let us know how it goes! Fingers crossed!

MAXIMUM BENEFITS

CREDIT CARDS OFFER ADVANTAGES

Many Canadian families are tightening their belts, and examining the role of credit cards is an important step when your review your household budget. With more than 70 million credit cards now in circulation in Canada, we easily take for granted the number of real benefits they can provide for the average consumer.

When you use a credit card for everyday shopping, for instance, you don't need to carry a large amount of cash or provide the additional identification necessary to pay with a cheque.

A credit card also gives you a complete detailed summary of your monthly spending, an indispensable tool for creating and managing a budget.

Young Canadians should be aware that acquiring a credit card and using it responsibly is the quickest way to establish a positive credit rating, an absolute necessity for when they apply for a car loan or mortgage. Maintaining a strong credit rating by paying your credit card bills on time will help secure the lowest possible interest rate when you do apply for a mortgage or loan.

Credit cards often get a bad rap as debt magnets. On average, however, they account for less than five per cent of total household debt. Since more than 64 per cent of us pay our credit card balance in full each month, most of us pay an effective interest rate of zero. A credit card provides a convenient and secure way to shop, budget and manage your finances.

With the growing popularity of online shopping, credit cards have become even more essential; they can also help reduce the hassles of travel.

Millions of merchants accept major credit cards around the world, so you rarely have to worry about having foreign currency on hand. Furthermore, they are usually required to reserve a hotel room, rent a car, and make other travel arrangements.

Depending on the credit card you choose, you can earn points toward travel or merchandise with every dollar you spend. Many people use credit cards for regular expenses such as groceries and monthly bill payments to amass as many points as possible. Some cards also include plans that extend warranties and offer insurance on purchases. Competition amongst card providers for your business is fierce — with a bit of research, you can get a card with the extra features that suits your needs exactly, maximizing the benefits.

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Women's basketball

Canadians step closer to London

The Canadian women's basketball team moved a step closer toward qualifying for the London Games.

Canada thumped Mali 89-23 on Monday in the opening game for both teams at a FIBA Olympic qualifying tournament.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Jays homer 3 times to knock off BoSox

Jose Bautista, Colby Rasmus and J.P. Arencibia hit two-run homers Monday night to lead the Toronto Blue Jays to a 9-6 victory over the Boston Red Sox despite two home runs by David Ortiz that tied him for the most multi-homer games in Red Sox history.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marijuana

Gymnast banned after drug test

A Canadian gymnast has been suspended for six months after testing positive for marijuana.

The world governing body of gymnastics says Cory Marsh, 18, from Oakville, Ont., failed a drug test in Orlando in April.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Euro 2012

Germany looks to change tradition

Germany's young team can achieve something none of its predecessors have ever managed — beat Italy at a major tournament. Germany captain Philipp Lahm says his teammates are not concerned with statistics.

But even the coaching staff is impressed by the cool nerves of Italy's Andrea Pirlo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Sakic, Sundin head the list of Hall hopefuls

Joe Sakic, Brendan Shanahan, Mats Sundin and Jeremy Roenick lead the list of first-year eligible players hoping to get the call from the Hockey Hall of Fame.

The Hall will announce its newest inductees on Tuesday. The 2012 class will enter the Hall on Nov. 22.

"Every year now it's getting real difficult," Hall of Famer Scotty Bowman, a member of the 18-member selection committee, said of choosing the inductees.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Joe Sakic won two Stanley Cups and had 625 goals and 1,016 assists in 1,378 NHL games. GETTY IMAGES

NHL. Star players align ahead of CBA negotiations

It could have been an all-star team.

First Alex Ovechkin strode through the hotel lobby and into a meeting room. Soon Jonathan Toews, John Tavares, Shea Weber, Shane Doan and 50 other NHLers followed — as sure a sign as any about how seriously members of the NHL Players' Association are taking their last set of meetings before negotiations begin on a new collective bargaining agreement.

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr has repeatedly talked about how important it is for a wide variety of players to be engaged in the process. Now he's reached the moment of truth — formal CBA talks with the NHL will begin "very quickly" after this session ends Wednesday, according to Fehr.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It's the future for everybody.... It's our lives."

Alex Ovechkin on upcoming collective bargaining agreement negotiations

Former Wimbledon champ Venus Williams ousted

Tennis. Williams was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease last year

Racket bag slung over her shoulder, resignation written across her face, Venus Williams weaved through fans milling about on the sidewalks that players must traverse to get from Court 2 to the Wimbledon locker-rooms.

The 32-year-old Williams had just absorbed a lopsided first-round loss at the Grand Slam tournament she once ruled, a poor performance that raised questions about how much longer she will keep playing tennis while dealing with an energy-sapping illness.

She trudged by as her hitting partner, David Witt, was saying: "It's tough to watch sometimes. I think everybody sees it. I don't know what else to say."

Looking lethargic, and rarely showing off the power-based game that carried her to five Wimbledon titles and seven majors overall, Williams departed meekly Monday with a 6-1, 6-3 defeat against 79th-ranked Elena Vesnina of Russia. Only once before — as a teenager making her Wimbledon debut in 1997 — had Williams exited so early at the All England Club.

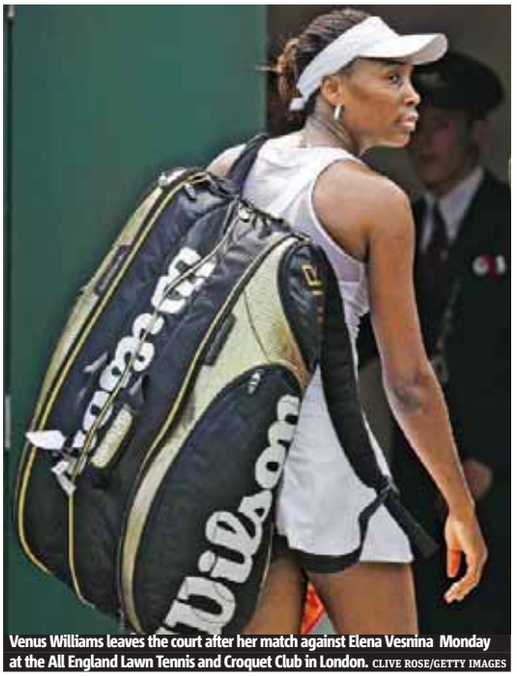
Still, Williams said she'll be at the London Olympics next month and is "planning" to be back at Wimbledon next year.

"I feel like I'm a great player," Williams said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Isner out

- John Isner, best known for winning the longest match in tennis history, went five sets at Wimbledon again — and lost this time, to 73rd-ranked Alejandro Falla.



Venus Williams leaves the court after her match against Elena Vesnina Monday at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London. CLIVE ROSE/GETTY IMAGES

4 SPORTS

Women's soccer

"We're a very confident team right now and we feel that on any given day we can beat the Japans, the U.S.A.'s, the Swedens."

Canadian women's soccer captain Christine Sinclair says her experienced team is primed for this summer's Olympics. The 18-woman squad announced Monday has a combined 1,374 caps. After the team's poor showing at last year's World Cup, Sinclair acknowledges it's time for the seventh-ranked Canadians to deliver against top opposition.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

NFL quarterback Drew Brees knows he has a dangerous job and wants to help make it safer. Scan the code to find out how the New Orleans Saint is involved in a program providing free concussion testing for youth.

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Rory MacDonald could be marquee fighter for UFC 152 in Toronto

MMA. Kelowna, B.C., welterweight slated to take on former champion B.J. Penn

Canadian welterweight Rory "Ares" MacDonald is looking to take down a legend at UFC 152 in Toronto. And he wouldn't mind doing it in the main event.

MacDonald's fight against former lightweight and welterweight champion B.J. Penn is currently listed as the co-main event for the yet-to-be-fleshed-out Sept. 22 show at the Air Canada Centre.

Penn, 33, retired in the cage after losing a unanimous decision to Nick Diaz at UFC 137 last October. But the former lightweight and welterweight champion reconsidered and the UFC approached MacDonald, saying the Hawaiian star was interested in fighting him.

MacDonald (13-1) was surprised, but intrigued.

"I took it to the next step and made it public, asking B.J. if he'd like to fight me," MacDonald said Monday. "He said yes and now we're putting it together.

"And now that the Junior (heavyweight champion Junior Dos Santos) and Cain Velasquez fight is apparently not happening, I think it's a good opportunity for me to step in and hopefully the UFC will make us the main event here in Toronto.... I have a lot of fans and I think I'm ready to sell the fight."

Just 22, MacDonald is the fourth-youngest fighter in the UFC, older than only Max Holloway, Michael McDonald and Charles Oliveira. But he has ice water in his veins and has turned heads with his rapid progression in the cage. He dismantled Nate Diaz, Mike Pyle and Che Mills in his last three UFC outings.

MacDonald, a native of Kelowna, B.C, who trains in Montreal, likes the idea of facing Penn.

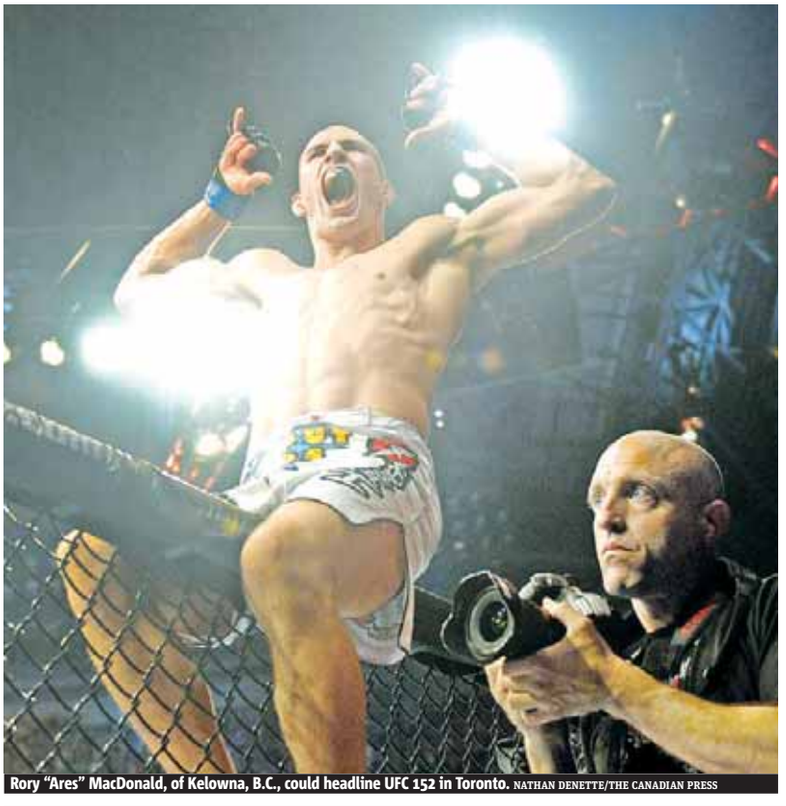
"He was one of my favourite fighters growing up," he said. "So if I could get that fight before he retires, that's amazing for me. I'm really excited."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Me winning and stopping him before the distance."

Rory MacDonald's response when asked how he sees a fight against B.J. Penn unfolding



Rory "Ares" MacDonald, of Kelowna, B.C., could headline UFC 152 in Toronto. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

War of words

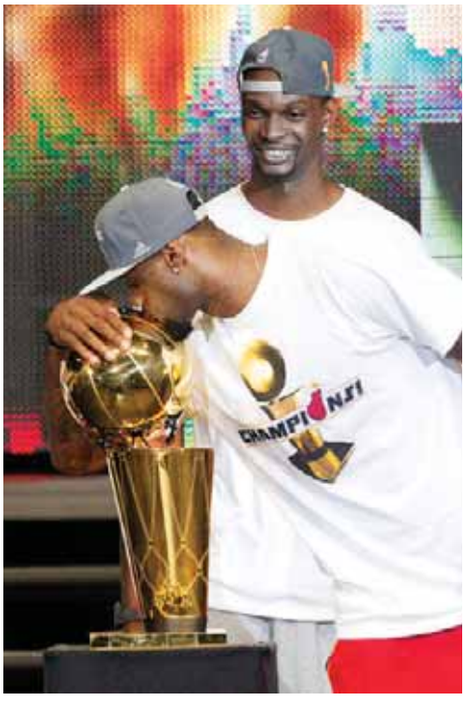
The Spider sounds off on Sonnen

UFC middleweight champion Anderson Silva unloaded on challenger Chael Sonnen on Monday, turning the trash-talking tables on the American while threatening to break bones when the two face off in their UFC 148 rematch.

During a media conference call to promote the July 7 fight in Las Vegas, the normally playful Silva turned ugly and shot back.

"Well, first of all Chael's a criminal. He's been convicted of crimes," an animated Silva said via manager/interpreter Ed Soares. "He doesn't deserve to be inside the Octagon and when the time comes and the time is right, I'm going to break his face and break every one of the teeth in his mouth."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



South Beach embraces Heat

Chris Bosh watches as LeBron James kisses the NBA championship trophy during a public celebration for the Miami Heat on Monday in Miami. PAT CARTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Historic CFL season has plenty of drama for football fans

CFL. Season-opening storylines include Geroy Simon on the cusp of breaking receiving record

The 2012 season will be a nostalgic one for the CFL as it marks the 100th anniversary of the Grey Cup.

But after a busy off-season, there will be plenty of drama for football fans long before the historic championship game is played in November.

The season opens with four new head coaches across the league, slotback Andy Fantuz playing closer to home and longtime West Division quarterbacks Ricky Ray and Henry Burris renewing their rivalry in southern Ontario.

Meanwhile, B.C. Lions veteran receiver Geroy Simon is on the verge of a major milestone.

"There were significant changes in the off-season," commissioner Mark Cohon said in an interview. "I think all these stories build great momentum for us in 2012."

Fantuz, Burris and Simon will all be prominent figures Friday when the regular season kicks off.

Burris and Fantuz will both make their Hamilton debut when the Tiger-Cats host Saskatchewan. The Ticats acquired Burris from Calgary but the game will be especially significant for Fantuz, a native of Chatham, Ont., who spent his first six CFL seasons in Regina before signing with Hamilton as a free agent this off-season.

The game will also mark the CFL head-coaching debuts of Hamilton's George Cortez and Saskatchewan's Corey Chamblin, who served as the Ticats' defensive co-ordinator last season.

Later that night, the B.C. Lions host the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in a Grey Cup rematch. That game will mark the coaching debut of Mike Benevides. He faces the unenviable task of replacing the legendary Wally Buono, who stepped down as Lions head coach following the club's Grey Cup win to concentrate on his duties as GM full-time.

Geroy Simon (81) and the defending champion B.C. Lions will begin the regular season on Friday by hosting the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Major milestone

67

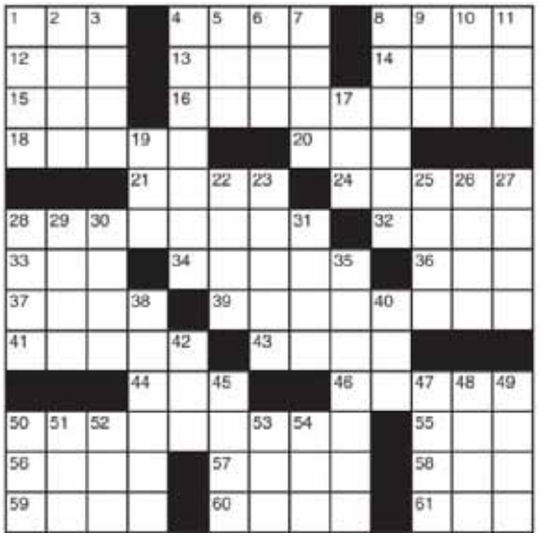
The number of receiving yards Geroy Simon needs to break Milt Stegall's all-time record of 15,153.

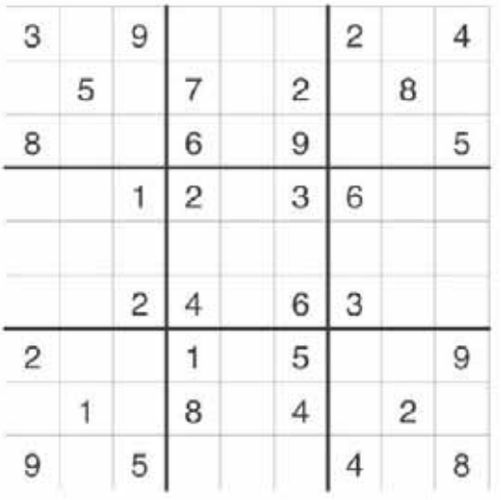
Cohon will be in attendance, but not only to watch Benevides' coaching debut. Simon needs just 67 yards to break former Blue Bomber slotback Milt Stegall's all-time receiving yards record of 15,153.

If Simon, 36, breaks the mark Friday, play will stop and Cohon will honour Simon on the field. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Across
1 Pump up the volume
4 Bloke
8 Hit hard
12 Spell-down
13 Tortoise's rival
14 Addict
15 Type units
16 Those who refuse to face problems
18 Bottom line
20 Squid squirt
21 Mother of Castor and Pollux
24 Informative
28 "The Blue Angel" star
32 Burrito's cousin
33 Request
34 Neighborhoods
36 Droop
37 Evidenced a pinprick
39 Parasitic worm
41 Auto style
43 Highland hillside
44 Vast expanse
46 Investigate
50 French cardinal
55 Crony
56 Rue the run
57 Young horse
58 Donkey
59 Nobility member
60 Atmosphere
61 Appomattox VIP

Down
1 Help a hood
2 Note from the boss
3 Nuisance
4 Epidemic illness
5 Owns
6 Illustrations
7 Graceful woman
8 Pail
9 Blond shade
10 Witness
11 Day fractions (Abbr.)
17 Hostel
19 Elev.
22 Gossip
23 Tart in tone
25 "Now then, where —?"
26 Read bar codes
27 Guru's exercises
28 Light applications
29 Gilligan's home
30 Supplemented, with "out"
31 Barber's concern
35 Shoulder blade
38 One of Santa's team
40 That girl
42 Born
45 — Romeo
47 October birthstone
48 Foundation
49 Otherwise
50 Knock
51 Lemieux milieu
52 Ernesto Guevara
53 Debtor's letters
54 Good hearing





How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

ECHHUEGLT RUC EWVMH EUFNAUOR CLWGX SN EWMVWE EGLTGLT, RUC FGTSW EMR RUC ANXWNO UCW M WCLN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A MAN'S NEATLY GROOMED HAIR GETS ALL MUSSED UP, YOU MIGHT SAY HE'S NOW DE-PARTED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals Y

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Your thoughts will become more positive now that mind planet Mercury is moving in your favour again.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Something you value will have to be given up but if you are wise you will realize it has to happen so there is room for something even better to come in and replace it.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. You need to speak up about something you think isn't fair.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Stop trying to hurry things along because what is meant to happen will happen in its own good time. That applies to all areas of your life but especially to money issues where, quite soon, you are in for some good news.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Your outlook will change quite a bit over the next few days.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Don't draw attention to yourself today.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Let friends and colleagues know how you feel today, even if you are the kind of Libra who hates to show emotion.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You will have to make some tough decisions over the next few days, decisions that will impact your career in major ways.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. It's OK to bend the rules a bit today. No harm will come of it so long as you do it sensibly and don't take too many liberties.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Something you once thought was so important now seems trivial, and it's to your credit that you are not afraid to change your mind.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. A relationship problem that has been worrying you for weeks will resolve itself over the next two or three days. Whether the resolution seems "good" or "bad" depends on your outlook.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. What you need to remember today is that every challenge you face is also an opportunity. Put another way: the more you are challenged the more you will grow and the more you will learn and profit over time.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"Splash pad, Niagara Falls-style."
Inga

VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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[MAY 16, 2012]

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